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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,886	02/27/2004	Andreas Reinmann	34088/US	4573
74307	7590	05/12/2009	EXAMINER	
Dorsey & Whitney LLP IP Department, ATTN: Disetronic Licensing AG 50 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498			KOHARSKI, CHRISTOPHER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
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05/12/2009	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/788,886	Applicant(s) REINMANN, ANDREAS
	Examiner CHRISTOPHER D. KOHARSKI	Art Unit 3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 27-41 and 43-50 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 27-41 and 43-50 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/1648)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

The Examiner acknowledges the reply filed 04/04/2007 in which no claims were amended and new claim 50 was added. Currently claim 27-41 and 43-50 are pending for examination in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

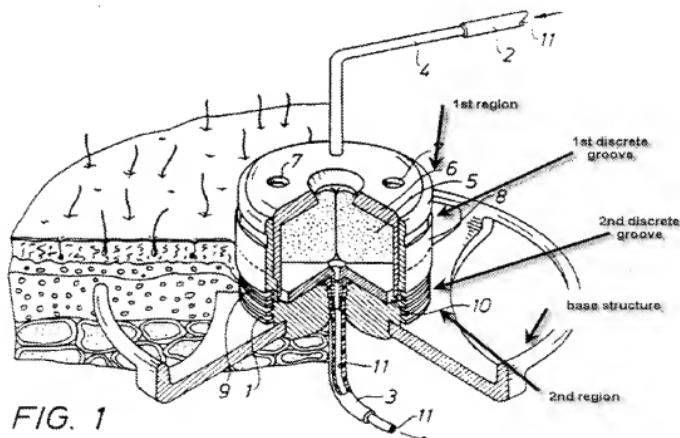
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 27-29, 32, and 43-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397). Svensson et al. discloses percutaneous access device.

Regarding claims 27-29, 32, and 43-50, Svensson et al. discloses an implant (Figure 1) comprising: a port structure comprising an outer wall (surface near 8) having a substantially uniform outer circumference interrupted by a plurality of regions having areas of a smaller outer circumference (lip near 6, grooves near 9), wherein a first region of the plurality of regions comprises one or more discrete tactile surface structures (first region see below, single groove), and a second region (second region see below) of the plurality of regions comprises a plurality of discrete tactile surface structures (grooves of 9), wherein each of said discrete tactile surface structures encircles the port structure and are arranged along a length of the port body that

comprises at least a portion of an implant area, the plurality of discrete tactile surface structures (grooves near 9) improving ingrowth characteristics associated with the implant by promoting growth of cellular tissue in at least one direction relative to the surface of the implant; a holding structure (base structure) coupled to a first end of the port structure, the holding structure comprising an encircling ring (ring near 8) protruding from the first end of the port structure, the encircling ring comprising a plurality of openings spaced around said encircling ring; and a connecting structure (5) coupled to a second end of the port structure, the connecting structure protruding out of tissue when the implant is inserted into a body and capable of conditionally attaching to a connecting element (Figures 1-2).



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 31 and 33-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397).

Svensson et al. meets the claim limitations as described above except the specific tactile surface widths, depths and distance.

Regarding claim 28, lacking specific criticality, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Svensson et al. with the grooves as claimed by Applicant in order to improve tissue retention, and since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04/04/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's Representative asserts that the Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397) reference does not disclose the specific port structure with a first and second discrete regions with one or more and a plurality of tactile areas respectively.

The Examiner has fully considered applicant's arguments but they are not persuasive. It is examiners position that given a careful reading, the claims do not distinguish over the prior art of record.

The Examiner asserts the prior art Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397) discloses the different areas as shown in the marked up drawing above. Svensson et al. discloses a first region comprising a single lip groove and a second region comprising a

series of circumferential grooves, each having a small circumference. With each region being separated by an wall portion (8).

The prior art of record teaches all elements as claimed and these elements satisfy all structural, functional, operational, and spatial limitations currently in the claims. Therefore the standing rejections are proper and maintained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Koharski whose telephone number is 571-272-7230. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 2:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Date: 5/11/2009

Application/Control Number: 10/788,886
Art Unit: 3763

Page 6

/Christopher D Koharski/
Examiner, Art Unit 3763

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763